

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

VICTOR MANUEL BENITEZ-JORGE [1],

Defendant(s).

Criminal No. 17-578-1 (DRD)

**ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

The Court has evaluated the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation of the Rule 11 proceedings regarding defendant contained in the Report and Recommendation, Docket No. 39.

The principal consideration is whether that plea was knowingly, voluntary and intelligently made within the terms of Rule 11, United States v. Isom, 85 F.3d 831, 835-837 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir.1996). In order to ascertain whether defendant made a knowingly, voluntary and intelligent plea, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit has identified three core concerns: absence of coercion, defendant's understanding of the charges and the defendant's knowledge of the consequences of the guilty plea. United States v. Gray, 63 F.3d 60-61 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir.1995), United States v. Cotal Crespo, 47 F.3d 1, 4 (1<sup>st</sup> Cir.1995), *cert. denied* 516 U.S. 827 (1995).

The Court in examining the three core concerns must "review the totality of the circumstances surrounding the Rule 11 hearing, rather than apply a 'talismatic test,'" United States v. Cotal Crespo, 47 F.3d at 4-5.

The Court having examined the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge finds that the plea entered by the defendant was knowingly, voluntary and intelligent as understood in the terms of Rule 11. The plea of the defendant is therefore, accepted and the defendant is adjudged guilty, after pleading guilty to Counts One and Three of the Indictment in Criminal No. 17-578.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

s/Daniel R. Domínguez  
DANIEL R. DOMINGUEZ  
Senior United States District Judge